

## PRESIDENT PRAISED BY CLERGY OF CITY

"Too Proud to Fight" Remark Arouses Much Admiration in Churches.

Praise of President Wilson's calmness and judgment in crises arising as the result of his remark, "There is no such thing as a nation being too proud to fight," marked the sermons delivered by prominent members of the city's clergy yesterday.

In response to an appeal sent out earlier in the week for prayers for the victims of the Lusitania were said at practically every church service in the District. The sinking of the great liner and the European war came in for comment in many sermons. Reference to particular nations which might have offended, was carefully avoided.

The Rev. Dr. C. Everett Granger, pastor of the Gunton Temple Memorial Presbyterian Church, commenting on the President's "too proud to fight" declaration, declared that America's ideal of civilization is higher than that of any other nation in the world.

Conception Highest.

"Our conception of our responsibilities, our appreciation of our opportunities for world service, and our attitude toward weaker nations have shown that we are in the lead," he said. "With the possible exception of our conduct toward Colombia, we have treated all nations with fairness."

Dr. Granger said the American policy in the present conflict would advance the cause of world peace.

"What we desire is a nation of peace rather than a nation in passion," said Dr. Granger. "Freedom of speech is so prevalent in the United States that ministers as well as political leaders can say what they please, even in times of extreme tension, but it is generally expected that those who occupy positions of responsibility will not become agitators when the country is facing a crisis. In the present situation there has been an absence of passion, and calmness, even in the case of those who are in the line of fire."

"Our flag means less outside the United States today than ever before in the last century," declared the Rev. Dr. Lucius C. Clark, in a sermon on "Consider Before You Fight" at the Hamline Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. Clark urged calmness but firmness. He asserted that in his belief the American people no longer felt secure under their flag. He criticized Americans who risk their lives on vessels going into foreign waters, and declared they risk their country as well.

"Boss Butchers."

The Rev. Dr. MacMurray, at the Union M. E. Church, in a peace sermon "To Mrs. Grundy," declared that kings and emperors who allowed their subjects to slaughter each other in war are no more than "boss butchers."

Dr. MacMurray took occasion to praise President Wilson's "too proud to fight" remark.

The United States needs an army for the same purpose that a policeman needs a club, said Dr. MacMurray. The bigger the policeman, the smaller the club need be, he concluded.

A memorial service for the victims of the Lusitania disaster was conducted by the Rev. J. Henning Nelms, pastor of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, last night.

Praises Federation.

Dr. Nelms praised the action of the Federation of Women's Clubs in appealing to the churches to have special services held for the victims of the Lusitania.

Only ministers who preached yesterday on the Lusitania and the efficacy of prayer for the victims of the disaster were the Rev. T. E. Davis, Westminster Church; the Rev. Robert W. Coe, First Congregational Church; Dr. Charles Wood, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant; the Rev. Edward L. Hardin, Mount Vernon Place Methodist Episcopal Church South; Dr. Lucius C. Clark, Hamline Methodist Episcopal Church; the Rev. James S. Montgomery, Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church; and the Rev. D. L. Blakemore, St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church South.

BALTIMORE, May 17.—As an evidence of the absolute loyalty of the German-Americans of Baltimore to the United States and of their unshaken and steadfast confidence in President Wilson and his ability and courage to pilot the nation safely through its present crisis with the German government, the German Catholic Union at its annual meeting addressed the following memorandum to the President:

"While proud of our German ancestry, we know only one flag, the flag of our country, and we tender to you, the standard-bearer, our undivided loyalty."

We have every confidence in your cool judgment, honest purpose and brave manhood, and are convinced that you would rather be right than President. That God may guide you is the prayer of the German Catholic Union of Baltimore and vicinity."

President Paul J. Prodehl, of the union, today forwarded the message to President Wilson, and behind it is the unanimous sentiment of 8,202 German Catholics of this city whose names are on the roll of the union.

Adopted With Enthusiasm.

The meeting was held in the parish hall of the Church of the Fourteen Holy Martyrs and was largely attended. The resolution proposing the communication to the President was brought forward and passed with enthusiasm. The only difficulty experienced was in so wording it as to make it as forcefully convincing as possible of the unwavering loyalty of the German-Americans of Baltimore to the land of their adoption and to its present leader.

It has been the policy of the union since the beginning of the war to avoid whenever possible any contention or controversy over the war. Its members have been consistently advised against writing controversial letters to the newspapers, making inflammatory speeches for or against any of the belligerents, and making any show of violating the spirit of President Wilson's proclamation of neutrality. The advice has been followed, as far as known, almost universally by the members of the union and their families.

Unanimity of Spirit.

There was such a unanimity of spirit in this matter of loyalty to and trust in President Wilson that the present acute crisis with Germany that the discussion of the resolution was not greatly prolonged. It is the belief of the leaders in the union that the memorandum is an accurate portrayal of the sentiment of the tremendous majority of the German-Americans of the city and of this section of the country.

Preparation was also made at the meeting for the Feast of St. Boniface, the patron saint of Germany, on May 20. The union will hold the celebration at the Church of the Sacred Heart, and the Rev. Dr. Heinrich Schumacher, of the Catholic University, will be the preacher on that occasion. Dr. Schumacher is very popular in this city as an orator.

## SAYS HER SINGING OUTSHONE SERMONS

Mrs. Eva Cropsey Tells At Divorce Hearing Why She Quit Church Choir.

NEW YORK, May 17.—Mrs. Eva Cropsey, of Rutherford, N. J., who is being sued by her husband, Dr. Charles Cropsey, a wealthy physician of the same town, for divorce, denied before Vice Chancellor Backus in Jersey City that she quit singing in a church choir because she was friendly with a married man in the congregation.

"I resigned from the choir of the Rutherford Methodist Church," said Mrs. Cropsey, "because a number of persons became jealous because my singing was more pleasing than the preaching of the minister, Dr. Mackin." She said there was no truth in the story that she and the "married man" had been found alone in the church late one evening.

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Former Judge Robert Carey, counsel for Dr. Cropsey, produced a register of the Hotel Berkeley, in Elizabeth, where it is alleged Dr. De Baun and Mrs. Cropsey went one night. Mrs. Cropsey showed the signature of an "Edward L. De Baun," and was asked if she recognized it as the signature of the doctor. She said she could not positively identify it as his.

"If Dr. De Baun registered there I know nothing about it, and I did not stop at that hotel with him," said Mrs. Cropsey.

Mrs. Cropsey denied that she was guilty of any misconduct. She rejected her charges that her husband's love for her had grown cold and that he was frequently in the company of other women. She had testified that he had preferred living with a bunch of hot-headed snakes to living with her.

The case will be concluded tomorrow.

## SIMPLICITY TO REIGN AT COMMENCEMENTS

All High School Pupils Here in Graduating Classes Are to Dress Simply.

Sweet simplicity will reign supreme in all Washington high school graduation exercises this year. Pupils will be urged to dress simply, and silks, satins, and all expensive materials will be frowned upon.

In most of the schools this movement will be fostered by the pupils themselves. At Eastern, for example, the senior class takes action on the matter of graduation gowns, and as in the past few years it is expected to recommend to its members that gowns be extremely simple.

At the schools holding evening commencement exercises boys will not wear dress clothes. Cadets will appear in their uniforms, and other boys will wear black suits.

Even the cap and gown idea, in vogue at Central for several years, has been abandoned. Principal Wilson said Mrs. Nora Hinkelshager will talk over the matter with the girls. He said this method "works in nine cases out of ten."

Western will hold its commencement at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and that fall alone, Miss Edith Westcott, the principal, thinks, will make for simplicity in dress. There, for pupils while attending school has been agitated during the years by girls of the school, and Principal Allen Day said the sentiment among the pupils is overwhelmingly in favor of simple dress at commencement.

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## WOELFKIN HITS AT KAISER'S METHODS

Rockefeller's Pastor Calls Upon Germany to Reform Her Ways of Warfare.

NEW YORK, May 17.—John D. Rockefeller's pastor, the Rev. Cornelius Woelfkin, preached a sermon yesterday morning in the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in which he called upon Germany to turn from her present ways of warfare. "The Emperor," he asserted, is leading a nation which has become "a ruthless buccaner."

Dr. Woelfkin's congregation was stirred deeply when he ended his address in these words: "Fifty years ago a soldier serving through the whole civil war perished on the monitor Patapsco in Charleston harbor. His body, recovered, was buried in Fort Johnston Cemetery. On Tuesday next we shall stand beside that grave to do honor to the memory of my father. He was a native of Germany and married a German girl. By heredity the blood in my veins is German. I shall look across the sea with pain of soul and prayer."

"O land of my fathers, O people of my mother's tongue, my heart is grieved for them. May God comfort and heal them! May He rescue them from shame and tyranny! May He defeat the counsel of wrong and sin! May He strike thy better instincts and make thee repent of evil! May He lighten again thy torch of honor and glory that thou mayest see if he was of thy noblest history and traditions!"

"But if thou persist in the course of lawless dishonor, then with shame and sorrow I stand in the front rank to proclaim thee isolated from the morality of civilization, a ruthless buccaner, a lawless national pirate who must give account at the court of humanity and history and the throne of the holy God, in whose ears come the cry of murdered innocents."

Dr. Woelfkin took as his text Deuteronomy xiii, 4: "When thou goest forth in camp against thine enemies then thou shalt keep thee from every evil thing."

"A nation that is engaged in a war of honest defense or in intervention of the helpless may find justification. In every war the motives are very mixed, but among them there is a relative right and wrong which we must recognize," he said.

Recent events have transformed us from spectators to interested factors. Our present point of contact is with the Imperial government of Germany. Germany, more than the other nations, has made a bid for our moral sympathy. Feeling the general pressure of our sentiment against her, she has not only circled us, but sent her special pleader among us.

"Germany has boasted the strength and efficiency of her fighting machine. But what are Germany's ambitions with this machine in modern days? We are not left to guess. They are plainly advertised by her military modernists."

Thousands participated in May Day celebrations in honor of the Virgin Mary in Washington churches yesterday. Elaborate exercises were the order of the day in Roman Catholic and Episcopal parishes, and in many other churches reference to the significance of the month of May was made.

Perhaps the most elaborate procession of children was that at St. Patrick's Church, where 200 white-robed girls and boys marched from Carroll Hall to the church and through the aisles, chanting hymns of praise. Miss Lucille Gaskins was the May Queen, reading the act of consecration and crowning the statue of the Virgin.

The sixteenth festival service of the Episcopal church of the District centered in the Sunday school rally in Epiphany Church in the afternoon.

Bishop Harding preached the sermon, which was heard by children from all sections of the city.

A procession was held, and special hymns of praise were sung. An interesting group present were the children from the Bell Home, to which institution the offering of the day was turned over. The Georgetown Episcopal children gathered in Christ Church, where elaborate exercises were held.

At St. Matthew's Church the May procession was one of the most attractive of the day. Miss Beatrice Jarbo was the May queen, and the canopy bearers were the son of Ambassador Naon of Argentina, the son of Ambassador of Chile, and the two sons of former Minister Calvo of Costa Rica.

Services also were held in St. Teresa's parish in Anacostia, in St. Rita's German Catholic Church, where children and adult members of the Windhurst Club, other societies of the church, marched in the procession, and in St. Ann's Church, in Wisconsin avenue.

St. Martin's Church Draws Crowd For St. Rita Novena

A solemn Novena, or nine days' prayer in honor of St. Rita of Cascia, proclaimed by the Catholic Church as "the advocate of hopeless and impossible cases," was inaugurated by the Rev. Eugene Hannan, at St. Martin's Church last night.

St. Martin's contains the only local shrine to St. Rita, whose canonization will be celebrated May 24. The church was crowded before the service began, and many persons were turned away.

Father Hannan declared that while every person should appeal for some personal want the St. Rita Novena could be made wholly for the peace of Europe and throughout the world. He urged his hearers to pray for peace in Italy and especially in Rome.

Doctorate Disputation At George Washington

Under the direction of the faculty of graduate studies of the George Washington University, the twenty-ninth doctorate disputation of the institution started today. The first thesis, by Samuel Falkin, was read this morning. Theses by Ulysses Grant Baker Pierce and Joseph Duerson Stout also were read.

June 1 to 7 the shippers' answer will be heard and June 8 the railroads will rebut.

I. C. C. Opens Four-Day Hearing For Railroads

The Interstate Commerce Commission today opened a four-day hearing for the railroads on proposed increased rates on beer, empty beer barrels, non-alcoholic drinks, empty bottles, tobacco, grain, grain products, rags, and waste paper.

June 1 to 7 the shippers' answer will be heard and June 8 the railroads will rebut.

Anything Wrong With Your Glasses?

If they are broken and in need of repair, or if they do not seem to bring the relief they should, we'd be pleased to have you call.

If there is any change, you will find it as low as, and frequently lower than, that asked by many who are less competent.

Eyes Examined Free.

Roe Fulkerson

OPTICIAN.

1407 F Street N. W.

Opposite Willard Hotel.

LOANS

HORNING

REPAIRS. V. A. (south end of Highway Bridge). Free automobile from 5th and F sts. N. W.

## Man Whose Heart Was Sewn Up Dies

Surgeons Had Warned Coconut Peddler To Avoid Any Excursion After Operation.

NEW YORK, May 17.—Once well on his way to recovery after an extremely rare and delicate operation which united the edges of a gash in his heart, Israel Ziff, a coconut peddler, is dead today because he disregarded the warnings of the physicians at Beth Israel Hospital to avoid any exertion until the wound had time fully to heal.

Ziff accidentally stabbed himself with a knife on April 20 as he was cutting coconuts to put on his pushcart. He fell to the ground and was hurried to the hospital by bystanders who had witnessed the accident.

While air artificially was supplied to the lungs of the injured man parts of the ribs and breastbone were removed to lay bare his heart and the left lung, which also was injured.

The pericardium, or outer membrane of the heart was cut by the knife and the knife point had penetrated three-eighths of an inch into the apex of the heart.

Stitches were taken in the heart and the wound closed. Despite the delicacy of the operation and the rarity of its success, in a few days Ziff began to show marked improvement. Within a week he was able to sit up in bed, and in the last few days had been walking short distances about the hospital.

He was warned against overexerting himself, the physicians telling him that a single sudden or violent move might undo all that he had accomplished for him, might wound him in his heart and result in instant death.

It is supposed that he paid too little attention to the injunction, for a nurse, stepping to his room to see if he was all right, found him lying dead on the bed.